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Thailand

Grain and Feed

Weekly Rice Price Update

2006

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Report Highlights:

Exports prices continued to flatten, reflecting the easing of domestic prices. Prices, however, remained relatively high due to growing intervention stocks.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Bangkok [TH1]
[TH]

Indicative Prices (Week Ending Apr. 1):

Thailand: Export (FOB) Prices for various grades of rice (USD/M.T.)									
	Exporter Observations							Period Avg.	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV.
F WR 100 B	465	435	440	456	460	435	-	449	450
WR 100 B	306	310	310	308	307	303	301	306	308
PB 5%	290	295	293	302	300	295	295	296	296
WR 5%	300	305	300	302	300	297	296	300	303
WR 10%	296	297	295	299	297	293	293	296	297
WR 15%	287	292	285	297	289	280	286	288	288
WR 25%	269	272	265	285	270	263	265	270	272
WR 35%	267	-	-	282	-	261	260	268	268
A 1 SUP	215	218	215	220	218	213	210	216	216
A 1 SPEC	213	216	213	217	217	-	208	214	214
Source: Average actual prices received from exporters									

Market Tone

Export prices for most grades of rice continued to decline due to an influx from the second crop, accounting for about 20 percent of total rice production. However, foreign demand is still quiet, as the Thai rice price remains high, compared to Vietnamese rice, which is around U.S.\$ 50/MT cheaper. A continued drop in prices is unlikely due to the Government's intervention stocks, currently estimated at around 4.5 million tons. Unless the Government releases the stocks, CY 2006 Thai rice exports will shrink for the second consecutive year. Given current high prices, trade sources expected Thai rice exports will likely decline to less than 7 million tons, far below the government target of 7.5 million tons. Thai rice will not be able to compete with Vietnamese rice, particularly to the African market which accounted for about 40 percent of total Thai white rice exports, despite anticipated strong demand for Thai premium white rice from Iran and Iraq.

The following are the reported rice exports (as is basis):

WEEK ENDING	QUANTITY	4-WK AVG	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR AGO
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)
FEB 12	120,706	94,109	551	778
FEB 19	86,753	95,098	638	893
FEB 26	99,974	93,552	738	977
MAR 5	89,876	99,327	828	1,049
MAR 12	72,466	87,267	900	1,136
MAR 19	75,974	84,573	976	1,234
MAR 26	85,814	81,032	1,062	1,322
APR 2	81,681	78,984	1,144	1,444

Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002, do not include fragrant rice. The authority to report fragrant rice exports was moved from the Thai Board of Trade to the Ministry of Commerce's Office of Commodity Standards, which does not release official fragrant rice export data. FAS/BKK will report only official export numbers from the Board of Trade for non-fragrant and from the Office of Commodity Standards for fragrant rice when available, but the reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.

Unofficial exports (excluding fragrant rice) for Mar. 27 – Apr. 2 totaled 81,681 tons, down 4,133 tons from the previous week's total, and up 2,697 tons from the four-week moving average of 78,984 tons. Exports during Jan. 1 – Apr. 2, 2006 totaled 1,143,838 tons, as compared with 1,443,583 tons in the previous year.

According to the Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan. 1 – Mar. 20, 2006, amounted to 1,477,977 tons, down 11 percent from 1,669,610 tons in the previous year.

Weekly Rice Sales

Private registered rice export sales for the period of Mar. 13-17, Mar. 20-24, and Mar. 27-31, 2006 are as follows:

Movement (MT)	Mar. 13-17	Mar. 20-24	Mar. 27-31
weekly sales	100,917	195,516	68,650
4 week sum	473,164	518,753	522,789
4 week mov. avg.	118,291	129,688	130,697
Total weekly sales	1,232,867	1,428,383	1,497,033

End of Report.